

Michigan Department of Community Health Bureau of Laboratories

June 6, 2005

Re: Measles cases (IN), Rubella cases (Ontario), Possible cruise ship Legionnaires' Disease

Indiana health officials are reporting **18 cases of measles**, including 3 laboratory-confirmed cases, the first confirmed cases of the disease in the state since 2002. Two Indiana counties are currently affected (Tippecanoe and Clinton counties). Health officials are urging residents of the two counties who were born after 1956 to verify their immunization status with their physician. One additional laboratory-confirmed case in Illinois is also epidemiologically-linked to the Indiana cases.

CDC is investigating whether possible exposure occurred on air flights from Bucharest, Romania to Indianapolis with stopover or connecting flights in Amsterdam and Detroit. Measles is a highly contagious disease that can have severe complications. Measles usually begins with cold-like symptoms (runny nose, cough, red or sensitive eyes), followed by a high fever and rash. The rash normally appears three days after the cold symptoms and usually lasts 4-5 days. Michigan health care providers and laboratories should be aware of this situation in our neighboring state and watch for possible cases. Measles IgM antibody testing is available at the MDCH Bureau of Laboratories, and requires prior approval. Please call Joel Blostein at 517-335-8159 for testing approval. Please see our web page at <http://www.michigan.gov/mdchlab> - Laboratory Services Guide - Viral Serology for further information on Measles IgM testing.

A previous fax (5/19/05) alerted laboratories to an ongoing outbreak of **rubella cases in Ontario**. Because of the proximity to Michigan, and possible interaction and travel between religious community members in Michigan and Ontario, Michigan health care providers should also be alert to the possibility of the spread of rubella into Michigan.

Call for Cases: Legionnaires' Disease Possibly Associated with a Cruise Ship.

A New York City resident has been hospitalized with Legionnaire's Disease (LD) after returning from a cruise that departed from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. The ship stopped at San Juan, Puerto Rico; Martinique; Barbados; Antigua; St. Martin; and the Bahamas. CDC is requesting a heightened level of awareness for cases of LD among cruise ship passengers. Diagnostic testing among travelers with community-acquired pneumonia should include collection of urine for antigen testing as well as respiratory specimens for culture of *Legionella*. For assistance with laboratory testing, contact Dr. Jim Rudrik at 517-335-9641. Local public health officials are asked to report all confirmed or suspect cases of LD among cruise ship passengers to MDCH.

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View previous communications at <http://www.michigan.gov/mdchlab>